

Course Embedded Assignment Reflection

EDLD5306

- A. Students will complete all parts of each Technology/Leadership self-assessments and thoroughly document the results as required. Students will thoroughly summarize key ideas of each section of their State's Technology Plan and describe their State Technology Curriculum Standards.
- B. Create a blog and wiki reference document.

Performance Task Reflection

At the beginning of this course, I had a slim view of what the Texas Long Range Plan for Technology was and consisted of. There has, to my knowledge not been a lot of discussion at my school about the plan. It was just basically a requirement and we developed the plan to meet that requirement. The assignments in this course raised my awareness of the plan and its usefulness to education. The real awareness came months after the completion of the course. I was given the position at my school of technology director. One of my first duties was the complete a Long Range Plan for Technology for my school. I honestly was a bit overwhelmed. I took the previous plan and based mine on what was in the previous plan without fully understanding what I was doing. I will be required to complete a new plan at the beginning of the coming school year. I now understand the plan and can now customize it for our district and make it applicable and useful. "The biggest question about technology and schools in the twenty-first century is not so much 'What can it do?' but, rather, 'What will it take to do it?' We all know life will be much different by 2100. Will school?" (Prensky, 2005) This coming year's plan will be mine based upon my previous year's experience and knowing our school's technology needs and vision. The plan must make technology relevant to learning. "To make education relevant to students' lives and truly prepare kids for the future, we need to bring these after school attractions into our schools" (Prensky, 2008)

Completing this class was beneficial, but it only gave me a basic understanding of content. The real learning comes from actually doing the work. I was fortunately to be able to actually perform the duties, as described in this class, shortly after completing it. The best way for me to learn was to be thrown into the fire so to speak. I completed the assignments as required and tried to do them at a high level, but the class was not where I gained the most knowledge of the subject.

The real beauty of the position of technology director is that it is a never ending learning experience. You must become a lifelong learner or you will not be able to keep pace with the rapidly changing technology environment. To be successful you must learn in a variety of ways including, research and investigation as well as collaboration with colleagues. I have been fortunate to be able to create a group of colleagues from different arenas to help be successful in my position. That relationship is invaluable to success. Information and technology doubles almost every eighteen months to two years according

to Moore's Law. (Gruener, 2011) We must continue to learn and stay on top of advances in technology to be successful educational technology leaders.

Prensky, M. (2005). Adopt and Adapt: Shaping Tech for the Classroom. Adopt and Adapt: Shaping Tech for the Classroom.

Prensky, M. (2008). Turning On the Lights. Educational Leadership, 40-45.

Gruener, W. (2011). Is moore's law still relevant?. 1. Retrieved from <http://www.tomshardware.com/news/intel-tri-gate-3d-transistor-CPU-moores-law,12710.html>

Blog and Wiki Reflection

Creating a Wiki and Blog for this course was a good experience. I have created websites and web pages, but have not created a Blog or Wiki. I can clearly see the value in both in education and well as in this masters program. Wikis provide an excellent way for teachers to collaborate. Wikis have been used successfully in education (Collaborative Software Lab, 2000; Guzdial, 1999). Research has shown that teachers and students can get very creative and develop innovative and useful activities for learning (Synteta, 2002). For some, wikis become objects to think with (James, 2004b), for others, wikis can help build an understanding of a community's shared knowledge. Since taking this course, wikis and blogs have become a valuable source of information as well as an avenue for the exchange of ideas. Blog and Wiki use should be a useful and valuable tool in educating the Twenty First Century Learner.

Fountain, R. (2004). Wiki pedagogy. Dossiers Pratiques, Retrieved from http://www.profetic.org/dossiers/dossier_imprimer.php3?id_rubrique=110.